

April 23

Ecclesiasticus 12:10-18

“About Your Enemy”



¹⁰ Never trust thine enemy: for like
as iron rusteth, so is his
wickedness. ¹¹ Though he humble
himself, and go crouching, yet take
good heed, and beware of him, and
thou shalt be unto him, as if thou
hadst wiped a looking glass, and
thou shalt know that his rust hath
not been altogether wiped away. ¹²
Set him not by thee, lest when he
hath overthrown thee, he stand up in
thy place, neither let him
sit at thy right hand, lest he seek to
take thy seat, and thou at the last. ¹³
Who will pity a charmer that is bitten
with a serpent, or any such as come
nigh wild beasts? ¹⁴ So one that

goeth to a sinner, and is defiled with him in his sins, who will pity? ¹⁵ For a while he will abide with thee, but if thou begin to fall, he will not

tarry. ¹⁶ An enemy speaketh sweetly with his lips, but in his heart he imagineth how to throw thee into a pit: he will weep with his eyes, but if he find opportunity, he will not be satisfied with blood. ¹⁷ If adversity come upon thee, thou shalt find him there first, and though he pretend to help thee, yet shall he undermine thee. ¹⁸ He will shake his head and clap his hands, and whisper much, and change his countenance.

Enemies! They are often smile-in-your-face backstabbers who pretend to care about you as if they were on your side.

There is a song from 1971 by a group named “The Undisputed Truth” called “Smiling Faces Sometimes”. Though secular, the

ominous music
with its driving
base line and the
profound lyrics of
that work was almost
prophetic. They even
said, “Oh, Lord” and
“Amen”.

Some of the Lyrics: 

*Smiling faces –
Sometimes –
Pretend to be*

*your friend
Smiling faces –
Show no traces
Of the evil that
lurks within.
Smiling faces.
Smiling faces –
Sometimes
They don't tell
the truth.
Smiling faces.
Smiling faces
tell lies*

And I got proof...

*Remember a
smile is just a
frown turned
upside down, my
friend...*

*Beware of the
Handshake that
hides a snake
Beware of the
pat on the back
It just might hold
you back*

*Jealousy, misery,
envy... - I tell you
You can't see
behind smiling
faces...*

The Ojay's sang
about
“backstabbers”
in a secular hit of
that same title.

🎵 *“They’re*

*smiling in your
face. All the time
they want to
take your place.
The
backstabbers.
Backstabbers!”*

This scriptural passage,
written long before either
of these songs were ever
thought about, carries the
same sentiment.

Verse 12 says,
“...overthrow thee
...stand up in thy place”.
It is solid wisdom and
a serious warning.

I wish I had heard of
this years ago. There are
minions everywhere—
and unlike in the
children’s movies,
real-life minions
are not friendly.

This passage is a
valuable heads-up
about your enemy.